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FINAL SURVEY RESULTS

Analyzed and Reported by:
Alberta Treasury, Statistics

INTRODUCTION

The analyses of the results contained in this report are based on 123,350 responses received by mail, fax, phone or internet between November 27, 2001 and January 11, 2001 (the original deadline of December 20, 2000 was extended due the mail returns overlapping the Christmas season). However, since that time, more responses have come in to bring the total number of responses to over 125,000.

PART I: RESPONSE SUMMARY

A) RESPONSE RATE AND CONFIDENCE OF RESULTS

A total of 1.124 million surveys were distributed to all households in Alberta. Based on the 123,350 responses, the overall response rate for the survey was 11.0%. The results are statistically valid at the Alberta level with a confidence interval of 99.7%, +/- 1% level of precision. Approximately 22,500 responses were required to obtain this high level of confidence.

The following chart breaks down the response rate and confidence interval by geography:

Geography	Number of Households	Number of Respondents	Response Rate	Confidence Interval
Edmonton Metro	359,000	38,310	10.7%	99.7% (+/- 1%)
Calgary Metro	345,000	38,138	11.1%	99.7% (+/- 1%)
Central Alberta Rural	165,000	19,902	12.1%	99.7% (+/- 1%)
Northern Alberta Rural	90,000	8,639	9.6%	99.7% (+/- 2%)
Southern Alberta Rural	47,000	4,909	10.4%	99.7% (+/- 2%)
Lethbridge	30,000	3,889	13.0%	99.7% (+/- 2%)
Red Deer	28,000	3,098	11.1%	99.7% (+/- 3%)
Fort McMurray (Area)[1]	24,000	1,088	4.5%	99.7% (+/- 4%)
Medicine Hat	23,000	2,841	12.4%	99.7% (+/- 3%)
Grande Prairie	13,000	1,435	11.0%	99.7% (+/- 4%)
Unknown Geography	--	1,101	--	--
TOTAL ALBERTA	**1,124,000**	**123,350**	**11.0%**	**99.7% (+/- 1%)**

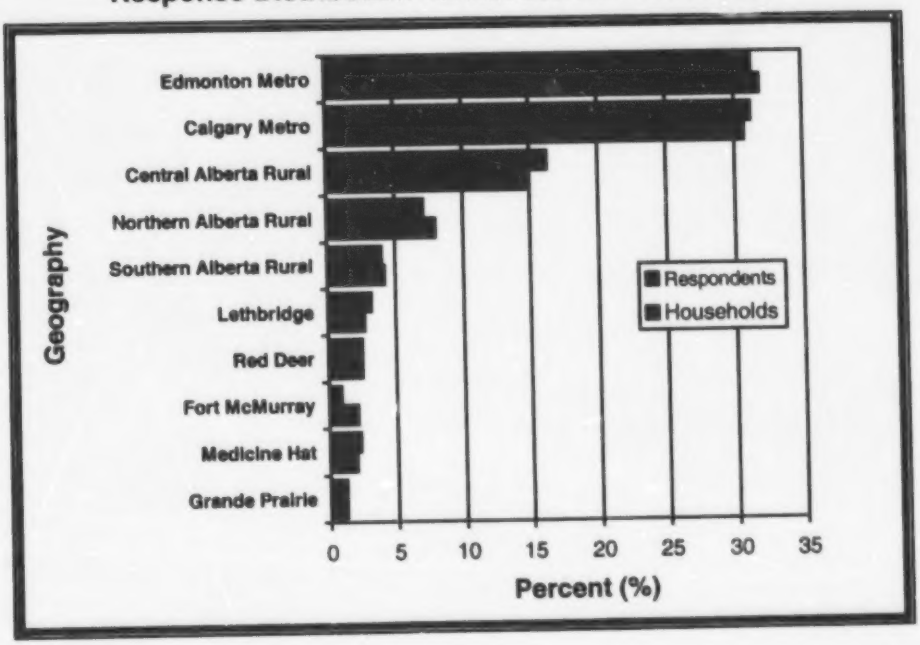
[1] Fort McMurray is no longer considered a city, but is part of the area of the Specialized Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

B) REPRESENTATION

The survey was coded by 10 standard geographies (based on the 1996 Census of Canada) and configured to represent the province by major urban centres, as well as North, South, and Central rural regions. Household counts were estimated by geography using the 1996 Census of Canada as a base, and applying Canada Post's adjustment factors for regional variations.

The following bar chart compares the response distribution by geography, to the known household distribution by geography. The percent of respondents by geography closely matches the percent of surveys distributed to households by geography. This indicates limited bias and enhances the validity of the survey results presented in this report, by making the results an accurate representation of the total Alberta population.

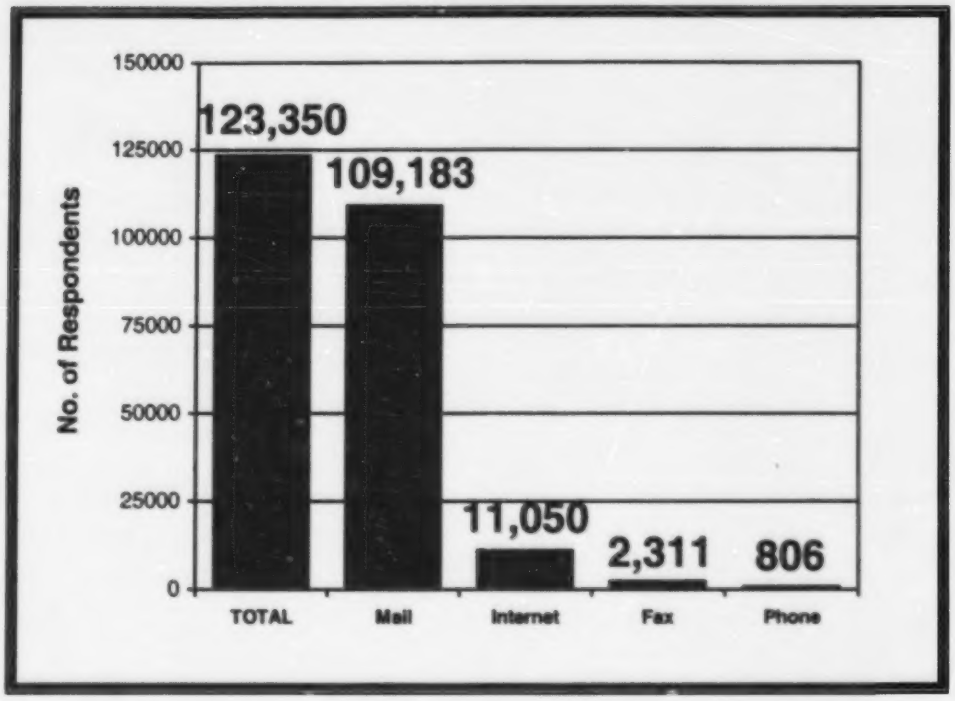
Response Distribution vs. Household Distribution



C) METHOD OF REPLY

Out of the four methods offered in which to return the survey, the pre-paid postage mail surveys were by far the most utilized by the respondents (approximately 88.5%). The next most popular method used was the Internet (9.0% of respondents), followed by faxes at 1.9% and only 0.7% of respondents replied by telephone.

Distribution of Responses By Method of Reply



PART II: AVERAGE INDEX RATINGS

A) INDEX RATINGS

Survey respondents were asked to rate the degree of importance/approval with each item using a 5-point scale. For ease of interpretation, the data from the 5-point scale was converted into a ratio that spanned from 0 (indicating the lowest importance/approval) to 100 (indicating the highest importance/approval), utilizing progressive weights along the scale. This allowed the importance/approval ratings to be expressed using a simple 100-point index.

The average of the index ratings provides a general summary of the respondents' choices. The following table displays the average scores of the items in the survey by respondents in Edmonton, Calgary, other cities in Alberta (Other Urban) and Rural Alberta. All differences noted in the following analyses are statistically significant.

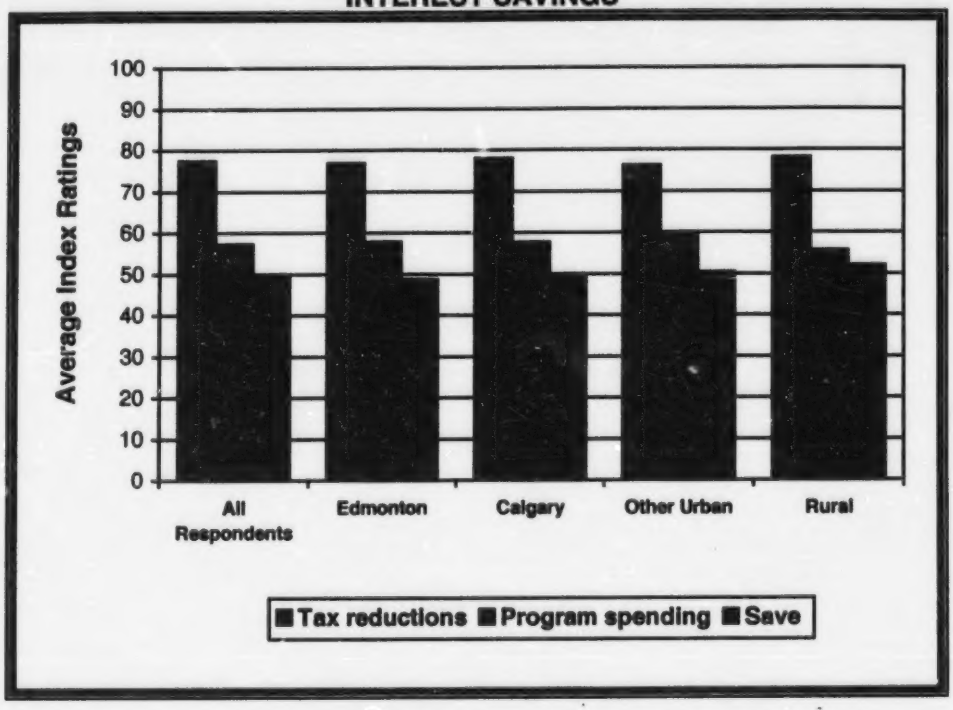
Average Index Ratings – Importance/Approval, by Major Geography

Question	ALL Respondents	Edmonton Metro	Calgary Metro	Other Urban	Rural
PART A: INTEREST SAVINGS					
1. What would you like to do with your interest savings money when the debt is gone					
Tax reductions	77.4	76.8	77.9	76.2	78.1
Program spending	57.3	57.8	57.6	59.2	55.6
Save	49.9	48.7	49.2	50.3	52.0
2. Degree of approval for tax reductions/elimination to return money to you:					
Personal income	79.4	79.0	80.4	78.5	79.0
School property	61.8	62.4	60.7	60.4	63.0
Health care	66.5	68.3	64.4	68.3	66.3
Fuel tax	67.4	65.9	61.2	69.9	75.5
Other	87.7	87.0	86.8	87.6	89.4
[illegible] approval for spending interest savings money:					
Health care	81.7	81.9	81.5	83.1	81.1
Education	73.8	74.0	74.1	74.4	73.1
Children's services	61.4	62.6	60.3	62.1	61.2
Infrastructure	58.9	57.8	61.4	57.5	57.6
Other	89.2	88.8	89.0	89.4	89.6
PART B: UNPREDICTABLE RESOURCE MONEY					
[illegible]					
One-time tax rebates	64.3	65.1	64.0	64.4	63.7
One-time spending	45.7	45.0	47.3	46.2	44.2
Save for future	61.7	59.8	61.9	61.9	63.6
[illegible]					
Energy rebates	70.5	69.8	67.9	70.9	74.3
One-time tax refunds	61.6	61.9	62.8	61.6	59.8
Annual dividends	63.7	64.8	60.8	64.8	65.5
Other	92.6	92.1	92.5	92.8	93.2
[illegible]					
Health facil. & equip.	81.9	81.6	81.9	83.3	81.7
Education facil. & equip.	72.2	72.2	72.5	73.2	71.6
Roads & public transit	68.2	66.4	70.8	66.5	68.0
Water & sewage facil.	61.9	62.0	63.4	63.3	59.3
Research	58.2	59.6	57.2	57.4	58.2
Other	91.0	90.5	91.3	91.7	90.9

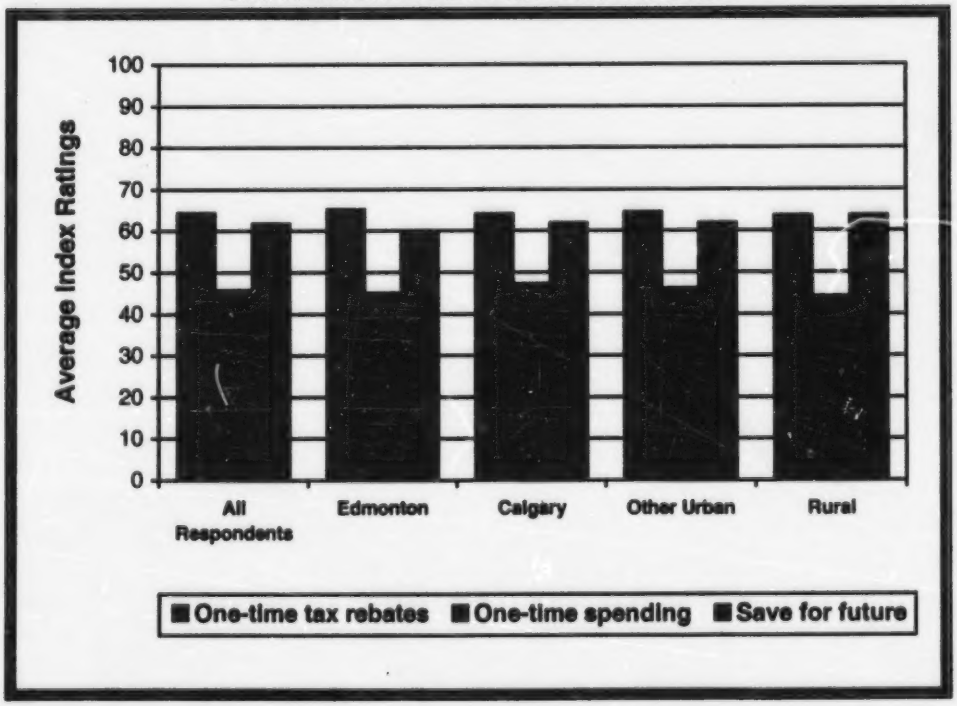
The trend of responses between geographies is the same, as can be seen in the following two graphs. Although the scores may appear to be very close between the

geographies, statistical tests have proven that various survey regions rate a significantly higher or lower degree of importance/approval than others.

INTEREST SAVINGS



UNPREDICTABLE RESOURCE MONEY



B) AVERAGE INDEX RATINGS - GENERAL OVERVIEW

With both interest savings and unpredictable resource money, Albertans, on average, rated the highest importance score for tax reductions or one-time tax rebates. The second highest score for interest savings money was program spending, however, for unpredictable resource money, it was saving for future years.

For various options of tax reduction/elimination and spending with interest savings money, personal income tax cuts and more spending on health care received the highest levels of support, 79.4 and 81.7 respectively.

Within the options for one-time tax rebates and spending with unpredictable resource money, energy rebates (70.5) and spending on health care facilities and equipment (81.9) were the highest scores.

C) AVERAGE INDEX RATINGS – GROUPED GEOGRAPHY

Interest Savings

Regarding interest savings money, Calgary and rural areas gave more importance to tax reductions. Other Urban gave more support to program spending. Smaller communities (rural and other urban) said saving was more important.

Calgary had some significantly different opinions than the rest of Alberta with interest savings money for a few items: Calgarians gave more support towards personal income tax reductions, spending on infrastructure; and less support for health care premium reductions, fuel tax reductions, and spending on children's services.

In addition, rural areas rated reducing or eliminating fuel taxes very high compared to the other regions.

Unpredictable Resource Money

Regarding unpredictable resource money, Edmonton considered one-time tax rebates to be more important than Calgary and rural areas did. Calgary was most in favour of one-time spending. Rural rated saving unpredictable resource money as most important, while Edmonton was the geography with the lowest rating of importance for saving.

Again, Calgary had some significantly different opinions than the rest of Alberta for a few items: Calgarians gave more approval towards one-time tax refunds and spending on roads and public transit, while they gave the least support to energy rebates and annual dividends.

Rural Alberta was most in favour of energy rebates, and least in favour of one-time tax refunds and spending on water and sewage facilities. Edmonton rated spending on

research the highest, and other urban areas rated spending on health care facilities and equipment the highest.

D) AVERAGE INDEX RATINGS – INDIVIDUAL GEOGRAPHY

In the following table, the highest mean scores across all geographies for each item have been highlighted in yellow, while the lowest mean scores have been highlighted in green. This table provides an overview of the different opinions expressed by Albertans for the various geographic regions of the province.

Generally, a few trends emerge. Fort McMurray rates program spending and saving the lowest. Particularly with program spending, Fort McMurray rates health care and education, children's services and research the lowest out of all regions. Grande Prairie rates many of these same items with the highest scores. Southern Alberta Rural most approves of saving. Calgary appears concerned about infrastructure, including roads and public transit, while Red Deer is the least concerned about these. Northern Alberta Rural gives the highest approval to energy rebates and Edmonton is the areas that most approves of research.

Average Index Ratings – Importance/Approval, by Specific Geography

Question	Edmonton Metro	Calgary Metro	Central Alberta Rural	Northern Alberta Rural	Southern Alberta Rural	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Fort McMurray	Medicine Hat	Grande Prairie
PART A: INTEREST SAVINGS										
1. What would you like to do with your interest savings money when the debt is gone:										
Tax reductions	76.8	77.9	78.3	77.4	78.8	75.4	76.4	79.2	77.3	[redacted]
Program spending	57.8	57.6	55.1	56.7	55.5	60.4	59.8	[redacted]	58.2	61.6
Save	48.7	49.2	51.6	52.0	53.9	50.7	51.5	[redacted]	49.7	51.1
2. Degree of approval for tax reductions/elimination to return money to you:										
Personal income	79.0	80.4	79.4	78.3	78.9	77.6	78.6	82.6	79.1	[redacted]
School property	62.4	60.7	63.1	62.0	64.1	60.4	60.7	61.1	61.0	[redacted]
Health care	68.3	[redacted]	66.3	66.2	66.3	69.0	66.5	67.5	70.4	67.0
Fuel tax	65.9	[redacted]	74.5	76.9	77.1	71.1	69.2	66.0	70.4	70.2
Other	87.0	86.8	88.9	89.0	91.7	88.1	[redacted]	88.1	86.9	89.5
3. Degree of approval for spending interest savings money:										
Health care	81.9	81.5	80.9	81.4	81.1	83.9	84.0	[redacted]	84.0	84.9
Education	74.0	74.1	72.5	74.3	73.5	75.4	76.1	[redacted]	73.0	77.0
Children's services	62.6	60.3	60.8	62.6	60.1	62.3	63.4	[redacted]	60.9	65.6
Infrastructure	57.8	61.4	57.2	57.6	59.4	57.1	[redacted]	61.1	57.5	58.0
Other	88.8	89.0	89.8	88.7	90.4	90.9	89.4	[redacted]	89.1	[redacted]
PART B: UNPREDICTABLE RESOURCE MONEY										
4. What would you like to do with unpredictable resource money:										
One-time tax	65.1	64.0	63.3	64.9	[redacted]	64.2	63.2	68.3	65.0	63.4
One-time spending	45.0	47.3	44.1	44.5	44.2	47.3	46.4	[redacted]	45.9	46.8
Save for future	59.8	61.9	63.3	63.6	64.6	61.9	63.2	[redacted]	61.6	62.4
5. Degree of approval for spending unpredictable resource money:										
Energy rebates	69.8	67.9	73.6	75.5	75.2	74.3	70.9	71.3	[redacted]	69.3
One-time tax	61.9	62.8	59.6	60.9	[redacted]	61.3	61.0	64.4	61.4	62.0
Annual dividends	64.8	[redacted]	65.2	66.6	64.6	64.6	64.1	64.0	66.0	65.1
Other	92.1	92.5	93.5	91.7	94.3	93.0	92.7	[redacted]	94.2	92.8
6. Degree of approval for spending unpredictable resource money:										
Health facil. & equip.	81.6	81.9	81.7	81.7	81.6	83.3	84.5	[redacted]	84.8	85.4
Education facil. &	72.2	72.5	71.1	72.7	71.7	73.8	74.3	[redacted]	71.7	76.4
Roads & public	66.4	70.8	67.8	67.3	69.6	65.3	[redacted]	65.3	70.4	67.0
Water & sewage	62.0	63.4	59.2	[redacted]	63.7	65.7	62.7	62.5	62.5	60.4
Research	59.6	57.2	58.3	58.3	57.7	58.0	58.4	[redacted]	57.0	56.5
Other	90.5	91.3	90.8	91.1	91.0	93.3	91.6	89.9	91.3	[redacted]

PART III: RESPONSE DISTRIBUTION

A) RESPONSE DISTRIBUTION

Below is a graph showing the response distribution for each question in the survey. The red bars denote low importance/approval, yellow bars are medium importance/approval, while the green bars indicate high importance/approval. Actual numbers and percentages can be found in the following table.

Response Distribution -- Importance/Approval Level

Response Distribution – Importance/Approval Level[2]

Question	Low Importance/ Strongly Disapprove 1		2		3		4		High Importance/ Strongly Approve 5	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
PART A: INTEREST SAVINGS										
1. What would you like to do with your interest savings money when the debt is gone:										
Tax reductions	6,670	6	7,483	6	17,735	15	22,828	19	64,244	54
Program spending	12,747	11	15,310	14	34,836	31	26,169	23	23,722	21
Save	17,371	16	18,905	17	37,995	34	22,346	20	15,482	14
2. Degree of approval for tax reductions/elimination to return money to you:										
Personal income	4,735	4	6,068	5	17,684	15	24,112	21	64,438	55
School property	9,052	8	13,568	12	35,358	31	26,293	23	29,628	26
Health care	10,633	9	11,942	10	26,495	23	23,393	20	43,153	37
Fuel tax	9,722	9	10,863	10	25,419	22	26,665	23	41,703	36
Other	615	6	138	1	518	5	1,494	14	8,230	75
3. Degree of approval for spending interest savings money:										
Health Care	3,115	3	3,873	3	16,567	14	31,168	26	65,738	55
Education	4,489	4	6,281	5	24,511	21	35,027	30	45,107	39
Children's services	8,622	8	13,102	12	35,467	31	29,082	26	26,351	23
Infrastructure	7,077	6	13,668	12	41,014	37	30,442	28	18,248	17
Other	545	3	88	1	796	5	3,035	19	11,857	73
PART B: UNPREDICTABLE RESOURCE MONEY										
1. How you would like to do with unpredictable resource money:										
One-time tax rebates	15,765	14	11,845	10	22,273	19	22,699	20	43,449	37
One-time spending	21,057	19	18,909	17	38,260	35	21,694	20	10,111	9
Save for future	12,411	11	12,018	11	30,168	26	29,072	25	30,563	27
2. Degree of approval for returning unpredictable resource money to you:										
Energy rebates	8,438	7	8,124	7	24,201	21	30,359	26	44,967	39
One-time tax refunds	13,450	12	12,583	11	27,841	25	25,154	22	33,183	30
Annual Dividends	13,546	12	11,234	10	25,405	23	25,012	22	37,534	33
Other	206	2	32	0	306	3	1,191	13	7,461	81
3. Degree of approval for spending unpredictable resource money:										
Health facil. & equip.	3,033	3	3,813	3	15,897	13	31,618	26	65,552	55
Education facil. &	4,571	4	7,171	6	26,408	23	35,242	31	41,554	36
Roads & public transit	3,017	3	6,896	6	36,907	32	40,210	35	28,425	25
Water & sewage facil.	5,101	5	11,569	10	41,701	37	34,238	30	20,638	18
Research	9,269	8	15,124	14	35,700	33	28,901	26	20,410	19
Other	363	3	51	0	596	4	2,390	17	11,003	76

[2] Totals may not add due to rounding.

The chart below denotes grouped levels of response distribution, to summarize the percent of respondents who chose a low, medium and high importance/approval rating.

Percent of Respondents by Grouped Importance/Approval Level[3]

Question	Lower Importance/ Approval 1 & 2	Medium Importance/ Approval 3	High Importance/ Approval 4 & 5
	% of Respondents		
PART A: INTEREST SAVINGS			
Tax reductions	12	15	73
Program spending	25	31	44
Save	33	34	34
Personal income	9	15	76
School property	20	31	49
Health care	19	23	57
Fuel tax	19	22	59
Health care	6	14	81
Education	9	21	69
Children's services	20	31	49
Infrastructure	18	37	45
PART B: UNPREDICTABLE RESOURCE MONEY			
One-time tax rebates	24	19	57
One-time spending	36	35	29
Save for future	22	26	52
Energy rebates	14	21	65
One-time tax refunds	23	25	52
Annual dividends	22	23	55
Health facil. & equip.	6	13	81
Education facil. & equip.	10	23	67
Roads & public transit	9	32	60
Water & sewage facil.	15	37	48
Research	22	33	45

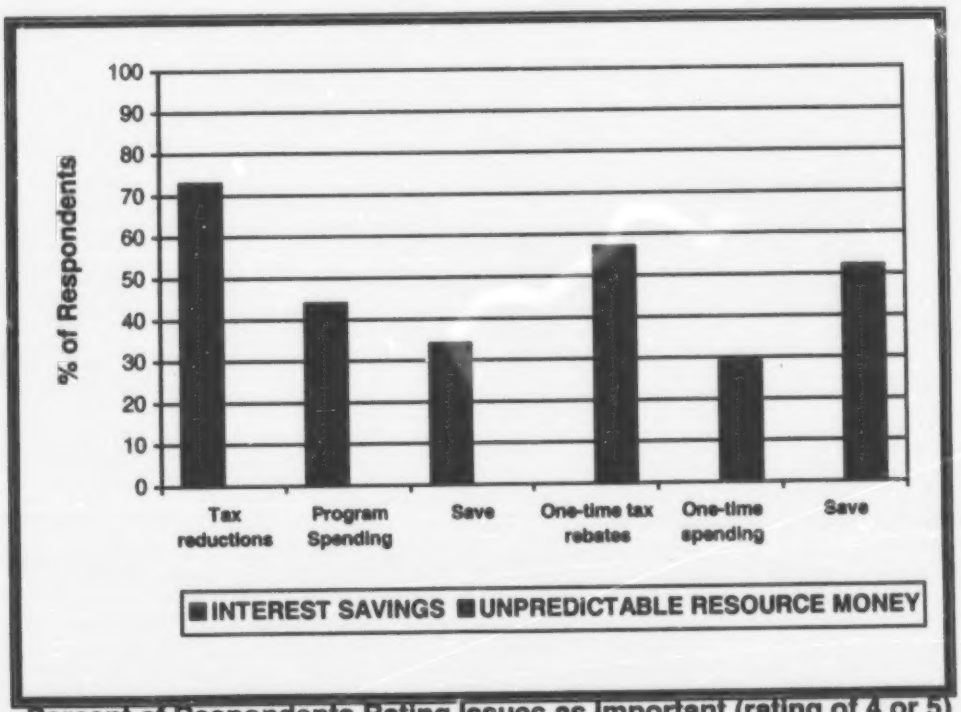
[3] Totals may not add due to rounding.

B) HIGH IMPORTANCE/APPROVAL

Looking at the percent of respondents who rated the items with high importance/approval (4 or 5 on the scale), more Albertans said the most important priority was tax reductions with interest savings money, while for unpredictable resource money more Albertans chose one-time rebates.

In allocating the interest savings, 73% of Albertans said tax reductions were important, compared to 44% who said more program spending was important and 34% who said a savings plan was important.

Looking at one-time excess revenue, 57% said one-time tax rebates were important, compared to 52% who said it was important to save the money for the future and 29% who said one-time spending was important.



Percent of Respondents Rating Issues as Important (rating of 4 or 5)

Interest Savings

Regarding interest savings, 76% of Albertans approved of personal income tax cuts. The second choice for tax cuts was reducing fuel taxes, with 59% approving, followed by 57% approving reducing health care insurance premiums and just 49% approving further cuts in school property taxes.

In regards to spending increases, Albertans supported increased spending on health and education; 81% approved of more health spending and 69% approved of more education spending. Only 49% supported more spending on children's services and just 45% approved of spending increases on infrastructure.

Unpredictable Resource Money

All options for returning one-time excess revenue were approved by more than half of respondents. 65% approved of energy rebates, 55% approved of annual dividends and 52% supported one-time tax refunds.

Three one-time spending options received strong support from Albertans. One-time spending on health facilities and equipment was approved by 81% of respondents, while 67% approved of spending on education facilities and equipment and 60% approved of spending on roads and public transit. Spending on water and sewage facilities, and research was supported by less than 50% of Albertans.

PART IV: "OTHER" OPTIONS

Respondents were given the chance to offer other choices not mentioned on the survey. About 10% of Albertans chose to identify their own options. The following chart indicates the major choices that were offered. The specific items that were mentioned most frequently were support for social programs, assistance to seniors, and funding for the environment.

In addition to the top 10 "Other" categories below, other suggestions were funding for farming and agriculture, libraries, arts, wage increases, policing/justice system, and sports.

Number of Respondents by "Other" Option

	INTEREST SAVINGS		UNPREDICTABLE RESOURCE MONEY		TOTAL
"Other" Option Categories	Question 2: Degree of approval for tax reductions/ Elimination	Question 3: Degree of approval for spending money	Question 5: Degree of approval for returning money	Question 6: Degree of approval for spending money	
Social Programs	747	2,743	935	2,152	6,577
Seniors	1,684	2,464	935	1,424	6,507
Environment	230	1,788	270	1,839	4,127
Education	751	1,268	603	978	3,600
Infrastructure	361	1,163	435	1,083	3,042
Utilities	1,195	482	595	522	2,794
Health	429	872	550	877	2,728
Savings	263	377	1,213	737	2,590
Other Tax Reductions/Elimination	3,859	798	1,995	767	7,419
Other	1,476	4,366	1,665	4,024	11,531
ALL CATEGORIES	**10,995**	**16,321**	**9,196**	**14,403**	**50,915**

PART IV: SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY

A) VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

- To ensure the validity of all survey responses, each submission was reviewed by hand and checked for administrative accuracy and multiple response patterns prior to keypunching.

- The mail-in responses (110,000+) were hand-checked for batch submissions with identical markings and responses. Consecutive, multiple submissions with identical response patterns were removed, allowing only two responses to be counted from the group. While this precaution should not have been technically necessary, as only one survey per household was delivered, this procedure was implemented to address a couple of conditions: institutional residences who received their survey forms in batch; and allowances for husband-wife non-joint submissions.

  For Internet submissions (11,000+), multiple responses from the same ID were checked for variability in response answers. Where response patterns were identical for a single ID, only two were allowed. This precaution was taken to eliminate any mass submissions. Also, any non-Alberta addresses, if identifiable, were removed. The number of responses received via the Internet accounts for less than ten percent of the total response rate, making it difficult for a few potential non-Alberta responses to skew any results. In addition, the Internet component was analyzed separately to determine if any significant variation was apparent from the mean response before inclusion into the general results.

  FAX submissions (2,300+) were reviewed for identical telephone line numbers and markings. Procedures similar to the Internet precautions were then taken to eliminate duplicated submissions.

  For the (800+) telephone responses, operators were instructed to be aware of possible "repeat calls".

  Out of the total responses received from all sources, 121 responses were removed from paper survey form submissions (mail, telephone, and fax), and 303 were removed from the Internet submissions, for a total of 424.

- Every survey returned was considered a response. Some people chose not to respond to some or all questions; thus not all of the questions had the same frequency of response.

A) STATISTICAL TESTS

- A variety of statistical tests (ANOVA, T-Test, Chi-Square) to find significant differences were employed.